

Ole Miss team helps open way for ministry on California campus



Brad and Marty Sprague, accompanied by daughter Abigail, visit with students on campus at the University of California at Irvine. The Spragues are Mission Service Corps volunteers who started the Baptist Student Union at UC-Irvine from scratch. After two years, the BSU has grown from zero to 50 in student participation, with at least a dozen students making first-time commitments to Jesus Christ. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

By Mark Wingfield

IRVINE, Calif. (BP) — Brad Sprague's work as a campus minister is motivated by the IRS factor.

Not the IRS with the April 15 calling card. Sprague and his wife Marty, are Southern Baptist volunteers who receive no salary for their work.

The IRS on Sprague's mind is an acoustic for the three reasons he believes college students must be reached with the gospel. Students are the most easily "Influenced," "Reached" and "Sent" group in society, he said.

The Spragues felt that conviction so strongly that they left behind a salaried ministry position, moved 2,000 miles and started a Baptist campus ministry from scratch at the University of California at Irvine.

While serving as pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., Sprague felt God's call to a different ministry outside the Bible Belt. When he visited California and saw the 16,000 students at UC-Irvine with no Baptist witness, he knew this was the place.

The Spragues drove into Los Angeles in November 1987 with all their worldly possessions loaded in two rented trucks. Soon afterward they walked onto the university campus to start a ministry, not knowing a single student.

California schools enroll 1.8 million students annually — one of every seven students in the nation. Yet the state convention and Home Mission Board can only fund seven full-time campus ministry positions in California, where there are 303 campuses.

"The state convention said, 'Yes, this is a strategic area but there are

no funds available,'" recalled Sprague, who was not discouraged by this news. "We've always been taught that you determine God's will and then find a way to do it."

They found the way in Mission Service Corps, a Home Mission Board program for enlisting adult volunteers. Mission Service Corps volunteers raise their own financial support, drawing upon resources not already being given to the Cooperative Program.

"Mission Service Corps is the kind of program I think is going to be the way to advancing the gospel in new work areas," Sprague said. "If student work is going to grow, this is the only way it will happen."

Even so, it was a tough decision for the Spragues and their three young children. "Thinking of raising support for a family of five in Orange County, Calif., was going to take a miracle," Mrs. Sprague said. "But God did a miracle to raise our support in three months."

What has happened in the two years since then is another miracle, they believe. The Baptist Student Union has grown from zero to 50 students, with a dozen students making first-time commitments to Jesus Christ.

The turning point in launching this ministry came during a visit from BSU students from the University of Mississippi, Sprague said. The Mississippi BSU sent a HELP team to the California school soon after the Spragues arrived.

Last summer the UC-Irvine BSU sent out its first summer missionary; this summer three more will go.

These events have made an impact

across the campus. One new convert hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for 45 friends, in which he gave a public testimony about his faith for the first time.

Cheryl McHaney convinced her boyfriend to attend a BSU event because of the activities planned. Once there, he made a decision to read the Bible for the first time in his life. Soon afterward he decided what he was reading was true, and made a profession of faith.

Another student, who is captain of the crew team, opened the door for the BSU to host a "Crew Feed" the night before a rowing competition. To facilitate the carbohydrate loading the 60-man team routinely does before a meet, the BSU prepared 20 pounds of pasta, four gallons of sauce and 18 loaves of bread.

The student, Lance Brown, gave a testimony about his source of motivation. As a result, 13 team members began attending a BSU Bible study.

The Tuesday night Bible study is the core of Sprague's BSU ministry. Four students have formed a worship band that plays upbeat music, followed by a practical message from Sprague. One series was titled "Stress Busters" with topics such as "The Power to Cope with Anything" and "What to Do When the Roof Caves In."

Beyond the Bible study, the Spragues spend time on campus meeting students, planning special activities and attempting to develop relationships that lead to ministry.

The BSU has no building or office, but Sprague believes that is beneficial. "That's one of the best things that ever happened because you have to be out there with the students."

Students accepted at UC-Irvine generally represent the top 10 percent of their high school classes and are highly motivated to enter successful careers, Sprague said. "If you can reach these students and direct their tremendous desire to succeed toward the things of God — that's one of the best opportunities we could find."

Most are open to the gospel as one of many acceptable ways to wholeness, he said. "When you start talking about Jesus being Lord, being the son of God, that's when the hairs begin to bristle. The lordship of Christ is a barrier."

Despite that barrier, BSU regulars have started a "10 Most Loved" list of people they want to introduce to Jesus. Last quarter, three on that list professed faith in Christ; this quarter, two more have.

"This kind of growth doesn't come just by people's works," said Brown, the crew team captain. "The Holy Spirit is moving. That's the bottom line."

The Baptist Record

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Historical Commission, SBC
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HMB exec committee takes stand on abortion

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted to "go on record supporting the sanctity of human life" during the Feb. 6 meeting of the board's executive committee.

The one-line resolution passed unanimously after being introduced by trustee Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn.

Phillips noted the resolution coincided closely with the Jan. 22 anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president, informed the executive committee of the final figures for the 1989 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Southern Baptists gave \$32,993,022 in 1989, an increase of \$2.1 million or 6.93 percent

from the previous year.

The \$32.99 million given in 1989 represents 85 percent of the offering goal of \$39 million.

The executive committee also approved appointment of nine missionaries, three missionary associates and 10 church planter apprentices.

In remarks to the executive committee, HMB President Larry Lewis said he was concerned that the total number of home missionaries under appointment at the end of 1989 did not exceed the number under appointment at the end of 1988.

The HMB ended 1989 with 3,808 missionaries, down 19 from the 1988 year-end total of 3,827.

The missionary count fluctuates every month as new missionaries are appointed and current missionaries retire or move to different positions.

Top Soviet scientist visits U.S., expresses surprise at lack of academic freedom

SANTEE, California (EP) — As a result of glasnost, scientists in Moscow have more academic freedom than scientists in California, according to a Soviet scientist who visited California recently.

Dr. Dmitry A. Kuznetsov, a world-renowned biochemist and winner of the prestigious Lenin Komsomol Prize in Science, visited the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) in San Diego recently where he met with ICR scientists to discuss ways to combine efforts to facilitate creationist laboratory research in Moscow.

Because of glasnost, many Soviet scientists are free to publicly challenge evolutionary dogma. "It seems that scientists have more academic freedom these days in Moscow than they do in California," Kuznetsov said when he heard about the efforts of Bill Honig, the California Superintendent of Public Instruction who is trying to close ICR's graduate school of science because of its creationist stand.

Kuznetsov was in the U.S. on a lecture tour of his scientific research. He spoke at Yale University, U.C.L.A. and other schools.

Kuznetsov has been a proponent of creationism since the 1980s when he converted to the Christian faith. In 1983, at the age of 29, Kuznetsov won the Lenin Komsomol Prize, an award given annually to the Soviet Union's two brightest young scientists. Three years later he earned the Soviet Union's Counsel of Ministries Prize for his outstanding work in biochemistry. He holds three earned doctorates: an M.D. in Internal Disease, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, and a D.Sc. in Molecular Biology. Currently he heads a biochemistry lab for LaserInvest, a joint business venture involving the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and India.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 4-11, 1990

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal:
\$41 million

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Fall in line

The meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee last week in Nashville ended in shambles; and if the Southern Baptist Convention adopts the budget proposal as it will be recommended by the Executive Committee, it could well be the worst mistake ever made by the convention.

Funding from Southern Baptists for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the religious liberty watchdog agency established by Southern Baptists 53 years ago, will be all but eliminated if the budget is passed as it will be proposed. That would be a tragic mistake brought about by a few people who are exhibiting a vendetta-like attitude toward the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee because the Executive Committee is unable to dictate its policies. Until just a few years ago the Executive Committee saw no need to dictate the policies. The Baptist Joint Committee hasn't changed. The Executive Committee has.

In the 1989-90 budget year the Baptist Joint Committee will receive \$391,796 through the Cooperative Program. For the 1990-91 budget year the figure is \$50,000. The reduction of the Baptist Joint Committee's Cooperative Program income by \$341,796 would be ridiculous.

Virginia Baptists are particularly incensed, and that convention has approached the Southern Baptist Convention with a memorial calling for a change in the attitude toward the Baptist Joint Committee and in other matters. So far, the memorial has received little attention. The Virginians, however, say they are determined to be heard.

Most of the money that would be taken from the Baptist Joint Committee would be given to the Christian Life Commission. The reason for doing this would be so that the Christian Life

Commission could establish an office in Washington to monitor and speak to religious liberty matters. This is what the Baptist Joint Committee does. For awhile it appeared that the Executive Committee was going to recommend a third Washington office to be established by the SBC Public Affairs Committee, but a vote to reconsider caused \$71,600 to be taken from the PAC proposal and also given to the CLC. The PAC, as most have figured out, is a committee named by the SBC to be the Southern Baptist presence on the Baptist Joint Committee. Ten are elected. Eight serve because of their positions. The PAC wants to be a part of the Baptist Joint Committee and also do the same thing that the Baptist Joint Committee is doing but do it from a separate office.

A large segment (\$155,500) of the additional money (\$293,728) for the CLC has been earmarked for the establishment of a Baptist Press office in Washington. There is already a Baptist Press office in Washington that is doing a first-rate job. It is housed with the Baptist Joint Committee. The BP staffer already there, Kathy Palen, has credentials at the White House, with both houses of Congress, and at the Supreme Court. Baptist Press was established by the state papers to serve the state papers. Only the central office in Nashville is housed with the Executive Committee. The bureaus in Dallas, Atlanta, Nashville, Richmond, and Washington, cooperate voluntarily. Even if the funds were withdrawn, the Baptist Joint Committee news office would continue to feed news stories from Washington to the state papers.

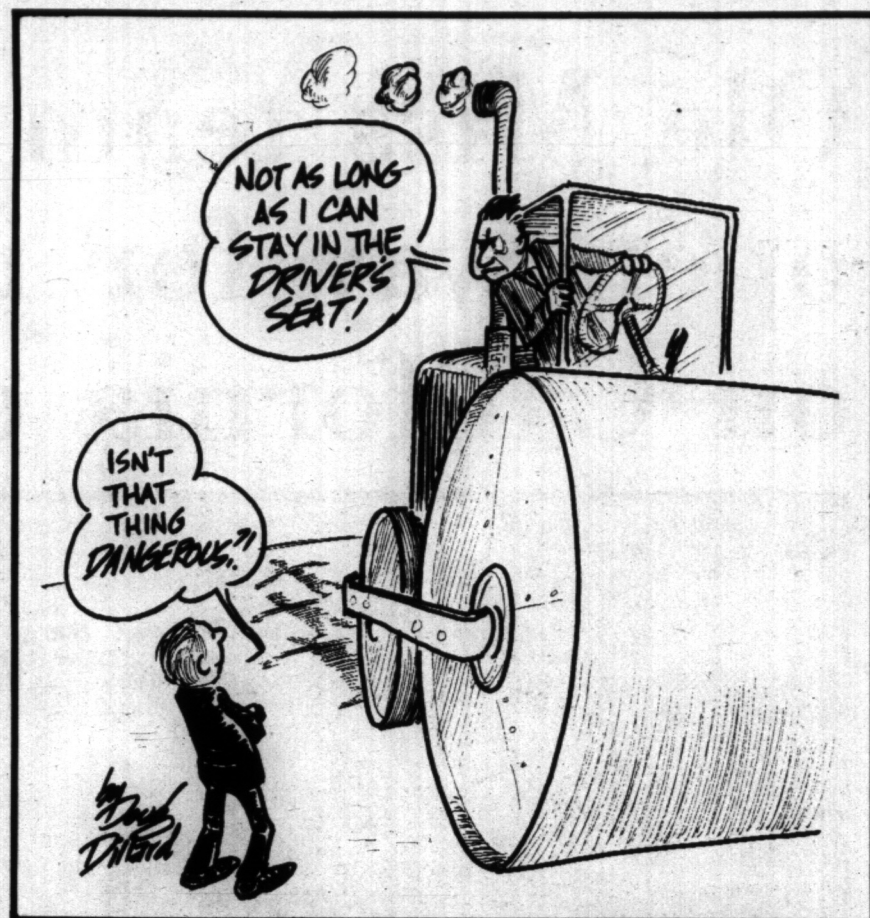
The Baptist Record has serious reservations concerning the Executive Committee's involving itself with the affairs of Baptist Press. The news service was placed with the Ex-

ecutive Committee to avoid the very thing that is going on. It is as if the Executive Committee has broken a trust. We trusted that body to protect Baptist Press from external pressures. The pressures are now coming from the Executive Committee.

An eight-page statement was adopted by the Executive Committee in support of its mangling of the Cooperative Program allocation budget for 1990-91. It met with determined opposition, though it was adopted. The next morning those opposing the statement, which included both James Yates of Yazoo City and Ingram Foster of Prentiss, met to formulate a minority report. The minority report will be printed in the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Book of Reports.

The eight-page statement was written for the most part by Paul Pressler, Executive Committee member from Texas. It includes the note that in past years the Southern Baptist Convention has provided up to 90 percent of the support to the Baptist Joint Committee. Perhaps Southern Baptists have provided that much support; but the convention itself, through the Cooperative Program, which is the only source of income controlled by the convention, has never contributed that much unless it was in the very early formative years. Though that statement has been made repeatedly by detractors of the Baptist Joint Committee, the Baptist Record has consistently pointed out that such is not the case. If this budget were to pass, the figure would be seven percent.

The statement points out that the \$155,500 was placed in the CLC budget "to allow the CLC office to house and operate The Baptist Press Washington office." It also notes, "The CLC has expressed a willingness to work with the



Baptist Press in providing its Washington office. Such an arrangement would be in the best interest of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The last statement certainly is debatable, and it could be that only the CLC and a few members of the Executive Committee want the CLC to be the Washington office of Baptist Press. If there is no interest in controlling the Baptist Press Washington office, why should it be moved? If there is interest in controlling that office, it must not be moved.

When the budget was being prepared by the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, the SBC Public Affairs Committee was made up of the 10 people elected by the convention, the four board presidents; Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee; Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary; Jerry Vines, president of SBC; and Richard Land, executive director, CLC. The

four board presidents are Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board; Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board; Lloyd Elder, Sunday School Board; and, at that time, Darold Morgan, Annuity Board. The agency representatives on the PAC are the ongoing members and the ones most involved in working with the Baptist Joint Committee. Only Bennett was informed of a meeting of the PAC with the budget subcommittee to consider budget matters.

And a pastor's wife who serves on the Executive Committee and opposed the budget as it was formulated, made a public statement that her husband's position had been threatened if she did not change her stand.

These are desperate times, and Baptist freedom may indeed be what is at stake.

There is representation on the Executive Committee which feels that anytime it speaks the troops must fall in line. That is dangerous indeed.

Guest opinion . . .

Mississippi missionaries to Japan

By Maudaline Q. Pepper

The Dec. 7 article, "Japan Baptists celebrate," with photo of my pastor, Dr. Kiely Young, First Church, Greenville (and fellow member Dr. Roy Raddin, director of missions for Washington County Association) could have read "Mississippi Baptists celebrate," as the third missionary couple to go to Japan was Ernest Nathan Walne and his wife, Claudia.

On June 17, 1888 Rev. Walne was "ordained to the full work of the ministry" in Greenville, Miss. The Greenville Times on June 9, 1888, stated that "E. N. Walne will be examined as a candidate for the ministry in the Baptist Church June 16, 1888 and if approved will be ordained on Sunday, the 17th. The Presbytery will consist of Elders, J. A. Hackett, DD of Meridian, J. T. Christian, Secretary of the Baptist

Convention of Jackson, T. J. Walne, DD of Clinton and Rev. E. E. King." Rev. King was pastor of the Baptist church and T. J. Walne was his father and he was also the first corresponding secretary for the state mission board, appointed in 1874.

Rev. Walne was born in Brownsville, Hinds County, on January 20, 1867, and grew up in Vicksburg and Clinton. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. (June, 1889). He was pastor at Ghent, Ky., at the time of his appointment to Japan. The "Foreign Mission Journal" announced his appointment: "At the April, 1892 meeting of the Board Rev. E. N. Walne, . . . was accepted as a missionary, and assigned to the Japan mission" (L. S. Foster, Mississippi Baptist Preachers). "On

May 31, 1892, he was married to Miss Claudia McCann. He and his bride sailed on the "Empress of China," from Vancouver, September 18, 1892 . . . They will join Mr. J. W. McCollum in Kokura, and will bring cheer to the workers there, who have been made sad by the departure of Mr. Brunson." (Foreign Mission Journal, November, 1892) (L. S. Foster).

As the Brunsons were sailing back to America, the E. N. Walnes were sailing their way across the Pacific to Japan. By 1896 a third couple, the Nathan Maynards had joined the McCollums and Walnes and were serving at Kokura, Fukuoka — the same place Brothers Kiely and Roy visited as one of the teams on the recent Mississippi missionary tour!

Rev. Walne was the first recorded foreign missionary to be ordained in

First Church, Greenville, but not the last. While he was a student at Mississippi College, he served as missionary pastor at Leland and Stoneville and perhaps preached at Greenville also. No doubt he had visited Greenville often as a boy as there are numerous recorded visits of his father, T. J. Walne, filling the Baptist pulpit; and he had relatives, George P. Walne and R. Walne, in the city.

In the Baptist Record we read that the Walnes remained on the mission field nine years before their first furlough, and he wrote the Foreign Mission Board telling of the difficulties of those early days. The Walnes retired in 1934 and lived in California until both died in 1935. They gave their lives in service to our Lord. They were not forgotten by the Greenville church, which through the years, has truly been a "missionary-minded" church.

Maudaline Q. Pepper is a member of First Church, Greenville.

While transplanting tomato, pepper, and squash plants, I began to pull the many weeds that had sprung up since our last rain.

The young, tender weeds came up, roots and all, when gently pulled from the ground, while the more mature weeds broke off even with the ground where they'd shoot up again with the next rain.

I thought how like our sins those weeds are. If we "pull" them up as soon as we notice them, they come out so much easier than if we allow them to linger until they mature.

They are much harder to root out after they get larger.

Also, I noticed that where the ground was soft from the rains the weeds came up easier, even the more mature ones.

The same with us — when our hearts are softened with the word of God, our sins are easier to pull up and root out.

—Linda S. Leach
Greenville

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Committee proposes \$137 million allocation budget

By Marv Knox
NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Executive Committee has proposed a \$137 million unified budget for the convention's 1990-91 fiscal year.

The \$137,332,523 Cooperative Program allocation budget will be presented to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans this summer. If approved, it will go into effect Oct. 1.

The Executive Committee ratified the proposal during its winter meeting in Nashville Feb. 19-20.

The proposed Cooperative Program allocation budget goal is 1.89 percent larger than the current \$134,787,543 goal. The new goal is based on actual Cooperative Program receipts for the latest fiscal year completed, which ended last Sept. 30.

The Cooperative Program is disbursed to three boards, six seminaries, one foundation and seven commissions. Five other organizations receive funds through the convention's operating budget, which is funded by the Cooperative Program.

All but four of the recipients are to receive 1.89 percent increases.

Three exceptions involve changes in the way the Executive Committee proposes to finance the convention's efforts on behalf of religious liberty. The budget includes an increase of \$1,296, or 5.47 percent, to the SBC Public Affairs Committee, bringing the allocation to \$25,000; a decrease of \$341,796, or 87.24 percent, to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, lowering its total to \$50,000; and an increase of \$365,328, or 40.70 percent, to the SBC Christian Life Commission, raising its allocation to \$1,262,836.

The other exception is Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. It is to receive a \$48,872 — or 1.76 percent — increase, which will bring its allocation to \$2,833,413. Golden Gate's base increase is 1.89 percent, but it did not get an increase on the \$200,000-per-year special allocation it is to get for five years.

Except for the discussion on the budget and some program assignment changes involved with the religious liberty issue, the Executive Committee approved 29 items in 35 minutes. They included:

— A three-part recommendation on the SBC's 150th anniversary in 1995.

It acknowledged the enlistment of Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala., to coordinate events in Atlanta and Augusta, Ga., in June 1995. Committee members also agreed to recommend to this year's SBC annual meeting that a 150th anniversary celebration be held Monday, June 19, 1995, preceding that year's SBC annual meeting, and to recommend that the '95 SBC annual meeting close at noon Thursday, June 22, to allow messengers to attend an evening celebration in Augusta, birthplace of the convention.

— Acknowledgment of a Missouri Baptist Convention resolution of support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and declaration that the Executive Committee had considered the resolution while making its program and budget recommendations.

The Missouri resolution stated that messengers to that convention's latest annual meeting expressed "our strong reservations about any attempt to reduce or terminate the Southern Baptist Convention's cooperation with" the Baptist Joint Committee.

In a subcommittee meeting where the resolution was handled, an Executive Committee member said the Executive Committee was saying it

had considered the resolution when indeed it had not. Other members of the subcommittee responded by saying they had received the resolution, considered it and decided to disagree with its recommendation.

— Approval of the Baptist Convention of New York — with 25,838 members, 206 churches and 100 church-type missions — for full representation on SBC entities; and approval of the Hawaii Baptist Convention — with 15,384 members in 55 churches and 26 church-type missions — for representation on the Executive Committee and "other appropriate committees" of the SBC.

— Receipt of information that the Executive Committee will sign a contract with C. Barry McCarty, president of Cincinnati (Ohio) Bible College and Seminary, to be parliamentarian for SBC President Jerry Vines at the SBC annual meeting this summer. McCarty is to receive \$960 per day and \$120 per hour for pre- or post-convention consultations, plus expenses. In 1989, he was paid \$14,555 by the SBC.

— Election of two people to fill vacancies caused by resignations from the 1989-90 SBC Committee on Nominations.

They are J.V. Davis, pastor of Rice Memorial Baptist Church in Northboro, Mass., replacing Carlos Pas, pastor of Island Palm Baptist Church in Hampstead, N.H.; and Patrick Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Johnson City, Ill., replacing L. Sid West, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Frankfort, Ill.

— Election of six members of the Baptist World Alliance youth committee for the 1990-95 term.

They are Helen Wood, associate director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board's international service department; Dean Finley, national youth evangelism consultant for the SBC Home Mission Board; Charles H. Johnson, director of the SBC Sunday School Board's student ministries department; Russell B. Griffin, director of the SBC Brotherhood Commission's children and youth division; Georgia Hill, Baptist Young Women consultant for the SBC Woman's Missionary Union; and Jerry Merriman, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's student ministry department.

— Support for the SBC resolution designating 1990 as the International Year of Bible Reading. The committee also voted to encourage all Southern Baptists to participate by reading the entire Bible during the year.

— Acknowledgment of the "significant role of local and/or at-large trustees for some of the SBC entities"; recognition that the need for such trustees "may not be as great today as in the past"; and a request that "each such entity . . . study the concept for a possible recommended amendment to its charter to discontinue or reduce local and/or at-large trustees," with the reductions to be made by attrition.

— A bylaws workgroup decision to decline to recommend an amendment to the SBC constitution or its bylaws "to provide for the removal of a trustee of a board, institution or commission, or a member of the Executive Committee."

— A report to the SBC annual meeting this summer "that the Executive Committee does not believe it to be wise to plan to conduct the annual meeting of the SBC during a weekend . . . since a survey of convention constituency indicates that 74 percent of the pastors and 44 percent of the laypersons prefer the days

Tuesday through Thursday" for annual meetings.

— Resolutions of appreciation for Timothy A. Hedquist, the committee's former vice president for business and finance, who resigned to become assistant pastor and staff administrator of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and for A. Earl Potts, executive director-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention, who will retire Sept. 1.

— Election of six members of the SBC Public Relations Advisory Committee.

They are Charles Chaney, vice president for extension at the Home Mission Board; Kenny Rains, director of world missions conferences and associational relations for the Brotherhood Commission; Susan Todd, news and information specialist for the Woman's Missionary Union; William W. Causey, executive

director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; R. Albert Mohler Jr., editor of the Christian Index, Georgia Baptists' weekly newsjournal; and Greg Hancock, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications division.

The Executive Committee also heard its last report from SBC President Vines, who said each church should be built on the foundation of

(Continued on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, March 1, 1990

Published Since 1877



Diaz



Sugg



Mrs. Lyle



Lyle



Myers



Causey

1st, Starkville, will host WMU annual meeting

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will hold its annual meeting, featuring missions speakers, March 26-27, at First Church, Starkville.

The program will include Lewis Myers, Dottie Williamson, Ken and Judy Lyle, Doris Diaz, Nan Sugg, Bill Causey, Marjorie McCullough, and Marjean Patterson.

Myers, a vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will speak about the program he operates, Cooperative Services International, which recruits Christians to work in countries where missionaries cannot serve.

Williamson, a church planter missionary working in Pearl River County, will speak on her work in developing new churches here in Mississippi.

Ken Lyle is executive director for Southern Baptists in Maryland and Delaware. He and his wife, Judy, who is a native Mississippian, will discuss

their work in those states.

Diaz, language consultant for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will speak on how to better relate the Christian witness to ethnic women in Mississippi.

Sugg, a missionary to Taiwan, will speak about her work there.

Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak on "Winning Mississippi to Jesus."

McCullough, president of WMU, SBC, and a former foreign missionary will deliver theme interpretations. Theme of the meeting is "Share His Love!"

Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi WMU, will give her "state of the union" address on Tuesday afternoon of the meeting.

A new feature of the meeting will be a series of conferences with mis-

sionaries discussing life on the mission field, "not issues, but the work itself," said Patterson.

Tuesday morning parents of home and foreign missionaries will be recognized and at noon they will be honored with a luncheon.

Also recognized will be church and associational WMUs which have achieved distinguished recognition on their achievement guides. "These are groups which have exceeded expectations in missions activity and leadership," said Patterson.

In business session, Mississippi WMU will hold election of officers. Eligible for reelection are Joan (Mrs. Charles) Tyler of Collins, president; and Stuart (Mrs. Robert) Calvert of Ashland, secretary.

Two separate events will take place

(Continued on page 5)

SBC faces 'clear alternative' on religious liberty voice

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists will face a "clear alternative" regarding their religious liberty voice when they gather for their annual meeting this summer in New Orleans.

They will be asked to vote on two items — a new budget and a change

in a program assignment — that would move the Southern Baptist Convention's primary religious liberty/First Amendment platform from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to the Christian Life Commission.

The proposals were approved by the

SBC Executive Committee during its winter meeting Feb. 19-20 in Nashville.

The financial recommendation contains a \$341,796 reduction in SBC budget funds allocated to the Baptist Joint Committee a nine-denomination religious liberty organization in

(Continued on page 4)

Religious liberty features variety of motions

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Executive Committee considered 17 motions, amendments or substitutions during its three-and-one-half-hour discussion of the religious liberty issue Feb. 20.

The debate revolved around how to direct funds and program assignments for religious liberty and First Amendment issues to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the convention's moral concerns agency; the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a nine-denomination religious liberty organization in Washington; and the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, an 18-member group through which the convention relates to the Baptist Joint Committee.

The committee first considered a Christian Life Commission program statement revision, along with recommendations to delete the Public Affairs Committee's program statement and to assign it five "operational guidelines."

Ann M. Smith, a layperson from Greensboro, N.C., opposed the changes. "The Baptist Joint Committee has earned its money," she said, noting the BJC's efforts to ease the tax burden on missionaries has saved the SBC \$10 million during the past eight years.

The changes also would "duplicate the programs, offices and personnel that already are functioning well in Washington," said Wallace E. Jones, a pastor from Bridgeton, Mo. He offered a substitute motion that would send the matter back to the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee with instructions for the BJC and the PAC to work out their problems.

Terry L. Davis, a pastor from Berlin, Md., said the proposed program changes would cost too much. "We're going to create three entities doing primarily the same thing," he noted. "It is a waste of money to try to resolve this by creating entities that will cost more money."

Fred H. Wolfe, the committee's secretary and a pastor from Mobile, Ala., disagreed. "We're just bringing our funding in line," he said, noting the new money shared between the three entities is only a 1.89 percent gain, the same as the rest of the convention's 1990-91 Cooperative Program unified budget allocations.

"The Christian Life Commission

will accept its new role," he added. "We have not been satisfied by the representation we have gotten from the Baptist Joint Committee."

Jones' substitute failed 53-18, and the original motion passed 53-17.

The Executive Committee next considered the 1990-91 Cooperative Program allocation budget, the formula for distributing the convention's unified budget among its agencies and institutions. The proposed budget goal is \$137,332,523.

James C. Wideman, a pastor from Portsmouth, N.H., moved to amend the budget, transferring \$72,600 of the PAC's proposed \$96,600 allocation to the CLC. "If we are going to begin the process of moving the First Amendment responsibility to the Christian Life Commission, I see no need to move money to the Public Affairs Committee," he said. The PAC currently gets \$23,704.

James T. Roach, an attorney from Albuquerque, N.M., agreed. "We should present (the budget and the religious liberty issue) clearly to the SBC so we can have a vote whether we should be involved with the Baptist Joint Committee or should have an alternative," he said. "The way the proposal has come out now, we not only have one alternative, we have two. We're proposing the PAC for one alternative and the CLC for another."

R. Kenny Spain, a pastor from Cadillac, Mich., supported the original proposal. "We would make a redundancy out of the operating guidelines we just approved," he said. "I am not opposed to having three entities in Washington. Most issues have more than one voice speaking for them."

Wideman's amendment failed on a 35-35 vote, with committee Chairman Sam W. Pace, an associational director of missions from Lawton, Okla., noting he had voted, since the tally was conducted by secret ballot.

Jones then moved to amend the proposed allocation budget by giving the three organizations each a 1.89 percent increase. That would give the PAC \$24,125, the BJC \$399,205 and the CLC \$914,479.

He offered five reasons for his proposal: sensitivity to state conventions and Southern Baptists who support the BJC; concern about more "division, hostility and confrontation" in the SBC; a feeling the "full story" of the relationship between the PAC and

the BJC has not been told; belief his amendment was in keeping with the spirit by which SBC executives proposed the current budgeting procedure; and a need to "demonstrate that our bond as fellow Baptists is stronger than our biases" and to "demand that the BJC and the PAC clarify their working relationship through transparent and accurate reporting."

Richard M. Cagle, a pastor from Gadsden, Ala., countered that the budget subcommittee had "struggled for hours with this." He noted the SBC agency leaders had presented their cases to the subcommittee. And he cited displeasure with the BJC's performance on school prayer, abortion and legislation that could force religious institutions to hire employees whose beliefs are contrary to the institutions.

Jones' amendment failed and the overall budget proposal passed on uncounted hand votes.

During the budget debate, Smith had asked about the source of an eight-page document detailing the rationale for the proposed budget, citing the Executive Committee. Following the vote, Wolfe responded that the officers felt "clear, understandable reasons for our decision" would be in order. "It (the document) is not binding on anybody," he said.

Don Whitt, a pastor from Milan, Tenn., proposed that the document be placed in the records of the Executive Committee. The motion passed 55-15.

J. Stephen Brumbelow, a pastor from Poca, W.Va., moved that the document be printed and distributed in *The Baptist Program*, the Executive Committee's magazine; the "Book of Reports" and "Daily Bulletin," which are distributed to messengers to the convention's annual meeting; and in a brochure.

Martin Bradley, the convention's recording secretary and a layman from Nashville, opposed the measure, citing the document's lack of balance. "There's not much positive in this document, and we know why, because it's intended to support the action we have taken," he said. "There is no mention of the decades of service" of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Wolfe responded: "It (support for the BJC) has been printed on the other side through the state papers and the Baptist Press. They've never printed our side."

At that point, more than one-half hour past time for adjournment, James M. Morton Jr., a pastor from Livermore, Calif., moved to table the issue. Paul Pressler, the committee's vice chairman and a layman from Houston, moved to adjourn, and the committee agreed.

Following dinner, David E. Hankins, chairman of the committee's business and finance subcommittee and a pastor from Lake Charles, La., moved to table Brumbelow's motion in order to reconsider the vote on the budget.

Pressler urged defeat of Hankins' proposal and further consideration of Brumbelow's motion. The motion to table failed, 31-32.

Carl E. Compton, a pastor from Myrtle Beach, S.C., offered an amendment that would have removed a section of the document that discusses "various problems with the BJC," saying that section of the report is negative and deals with personality issues.

Pressler countered, "Too frequently we have let the press set the agenda" for discussion of the BJC, noting the Executive Committee needs to "say why we're concerned." He also said the document does not deal with personalities and that the only proper name mentioned is in a direct quote.

James F. Yates, a pastor from Yazoo City, Miss., said, "It sounds like a personal vendetta against one man" and asked: "Can everything in this be validated? We're going to look pretty foolish if it contains errors."

William F. Harrell, chairman of the committee's program and budget subcommittee and a pastor from Martinez, Ga., noted, "To cut this out is going to cut the guts out of the argument" for the budget proposal.

The vote on Compton's amendment failed 19-53.

Terry L. Davis, a pastor from Berlin, Md., opposed the publication. "We are doing what I would call a propaganda ploy," he said. "We are giving one side of the issue . . . If we're going to bring peace and unity to the convention, we ought not be instigators of this division."

Eldridge L. Miller, a pastor from Sallisaw, Okla., noted, "If we do not publish this, our constituency will never know" how the committee decided to make its proposal.

Stan D. Coffey, a pastor from Amarillo, Texas, said people had been

asking him for rationale for the committee's decisions and that such a document would help him respond. Also, the document would not cause division, since the convention already is divided over the issue, he added.

William K. Hall, a layman from San Clemente, Calif., objected to the document's use of "we, the Executive Committee" instead of "we, the officers of the Executive Committee" since the officers wrote it but the full committee did not formally adopt it.

Kenneth R. Barnett, a pastor from Lakewood, Colo., supported publication. "I believe our officers have given

(Continued on page 5)

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SBC faces clear alternative on . . . voice

(Continued from page 3)

Washington. The proposal would drop the convention's contribution to the BJC from \$391,796 to \$50,000, an 87.24 percent reduction.

It also includes a \$365,328 increase in funding for the Christian Life Commission, the convention's Nashville-based moral concerns agency, which has a Washington office. The CLC would get \$1,262,836, a 40.70 percent gain from the current \$897,508. The increase is comprised of the 1.89 percent growth in the overall SBC budget, plus funds that would be transferred from the BJC.

The budget proposal will be paired with a recommendation that would change the CLC's program assignment, allowing it to address religious liberty issues as well as Christian social ethics.

The combined proposals represent "the clearest alternative . . . concerning how we will do our religious liberty work," said David E. Hankins,

chairman of the Executive Committee's business and finance subcommittee and pastor from Lake Charles, La.

The BJC has been a point of contention within the convention for most of the past decade.

Detractors have said the BJC is too liberal, faulting it for not supporting school-prayer and anti-abortion amendments, as well as not siding with them on several legislative issues. They also have said it is not as accountable to the SBC as it should be and that the SBC provides a disproportionate share of BJC funding.

Supporters have said the BJC strictly upholds the historic Baptist belief in church-state separation and cannot get involved in moral concerns except as they involve religious liberty. They have said it is accountable to the SBC through its trustees, more than one-third Southern Baptist, and that the SBC's level of financial support is fair because of the comparative sizes of

the SBC and the eight other Baptist denominations.

The alternatives have been less than clear, Executive Committee members noted. Three special committees have studied the BJC since 1986, and messengers to SBC annual meetings have turned back efforts to defund the BJC. The Executive Committee has proposed and rescinded plans for creating an SBC Religious Liberty Commission. At the winter meeting, the Executive Committee defeated a plan to more than quadruple the budget of the SBC Public Affairs Committee — the 18-member committee through which the convention relates to the BJC — which would have given PAC members a more active role in addressing religious liberty.

The latest alternative — increased funding and an expanded program assignment for the CLC; decreased funding for the BJC — will take effect when the convention's fiscal year

begins next October, if a majority of messengers to the New Orleans annual meeting agree. Longtime observers predicted BJC defenders will have an uphill battle, since an Executive Committee budget proposal has not been overturned in decades.

Southern Baptists will get to study the issue themselves before they vote. The Executive Committee decided to publish an eight-page statement drafted by its officers that gives a rationale for making the change. They later agreed to allow publication of a minority report that is to defend sustaining the level of BJC support.

The statements will be published in the May issue of *The Baptist Program*, the Executive Committee's magazine; in the "Book of Reports" and "Daily Bulletin," which will be given to messengers to the New Orleans meeting; and in a brochure, which will be available upon request from the Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Religious liberty

(Continued from page 4)
us complete, accurate, informed information," he said.

The motion to publish the document passed 39-20.

James E. Jones, a pastor from Campbellsville, Ky., proposed that a minority report "be given the same exposure as this document. Pressler offered a substitute that would encourage a minority report "signed by those individuals who are in agreement with the minority report."

Pressler's substitute carried with one dissenting vote.

Roach proposed that the majority report be signed by its supporters. He noted that while he supported the budget proposal, he did not agree with all the rationale in the majority report.

Pressler countered that a member can register dissent from any vote but that "a signing of the action of the Executive Committee would weaken the action of the Executive Committee."

Roach's motion failed on an uncounted show-of-hands vote.

The next day, 14 committee members met to discuss development of the minority report. They named a drafting committee comprised of Yates, Wallace Jones, Bradley and Frank Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark.)

Hankins then moved to reconsider the budget, which had been approved by the committee before the dinner break. "I have had second thoughts on funding the Public Affairs Committee at this level," he said.

"I am one Southern Baptist who is ready for a change, an alternative in the way we've been doing religious

liberty," he said. "I do believe we may not have given the clearest alternative to the Southern Baptist Convention concerning how we will do our religious liberty work."

The vote to reconsider passed 36-26. Hankins then moved to decrease the PAC's proposed allocation from \$96,600 to \$25,000, with the \$71,600 balance going to the CLC.

Miller opposed the action, noting the Executive Committee had adopted operational guidelines for the PAC. "I believe it is absolutely impossible for them to do their work for \$25,000," he said.

Walter S. Tomme Jr., a pastor from Arlington, Va., said a PAC member had told him the PAC would be "our primary voice in Washington on matters of religious liberty." He asked for a clarification of that issue.

Chairman Pace said, "The chair does not share that opinion."

"For us to be effective in Washington, we need to have a clear voice, not a diluted voice," Tomme said.

The budget amendment passed 44-25, and the new budget proposal passed 46-13.

Following the vote, SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., and an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, noted that he did not vote on matters relative to the budget, so that he can preside at the SBC annual meeting without conflict of interest.

The committee then approved a motion by Pressler that allowed the committee's officers to change the majority report to reflect the accurate figures in the new budget proposal.

Northminster, Richmond, approves request for seminary space

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 — Northminster Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., has given overwhelming approval to a request from the provisional board of trustees of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond to lease portions of the church facility to the new school.

Under terms of the church action, the school will lease two rooms as offices, three other rooms as classrooms, and the church's chapel

for \$1000 monthly. Expenses for necessary alterations to the facilities are to be borne by the seminary. Although the agreement is open-ended, the church action includes a provision that the agreement "shall be terminable upon reasonable notice by the church given to the seminary."

Creation of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond was authorized one year ago during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Alliance, the sponsoring body. The latter consists of nearly 100 member congregations, some two dozen supporting congregations, and about 2,800 individual members. Among its seven "covenant" principles is one that pledges commitment to "theological education in congregations, colleges and seminaries characterized by reverence for biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship."

The fourth annual convocation of the Southern Baptist Alliance will be held March 9 to 11 at Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo. Program guests will include John Hewett, pastor, First Church, Asheville, N.C.; Kate Penfield, First Baptist Church in America, Providence, R.I.; Charles Adams, Hartford Memorial Church, Detroit, Mich.; John Sundquist, executive director, Board of International Ministries, American Baptist Convention; Olin Robison, president, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt.; the concert choir of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and Molly Marshall-Green, professor, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Churches may nominate SBC pages

Each year Mississippi has the opportunity to nominate a page to serve during the Southern Baptist Convention in June, this year at New Orleans. Mississippi's page will be selected from those nominated by their individual churches.

Requirements for selection include: grades 10-12, earned at least two Mission Challenge awards, and active in High School Baptist Young Men's program.

Nominees must have letters of recommendation from their pastors and High School Baptist Young Men's advisor. All nominations must be in the office of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department no later than March 15 at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Pages pay their own transportation to the convention; the Brotherhood Commission and state Brotherhood Department pay for room and board.

WMU to meet in Starkville

(Continued from page 3)
during the WMU meeting. The Baptist Young Women and the Baptist Nursing Fellowship will have banquets.

The BYW will meet March 26 at 5:30 at First Church with Marjorie McCullough and Nan Sugg as speakers. Cost is \$4.50. Write WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, for reservations. Deadline is March 22.

The Nursing Fellowship will meet at the church March 26 at 5:30 with McCullough and Lewis Myers as guests. The meeting will feature medical missions opportunities and fellowship with other Christian nurses.

Area hotels and phone numbers are Holiday Inn, 323-6161; University Inn, 323-9550; University Hotel, 323-1421; Regal Inn, 323-8251; and Ivy Guest House, 323-2000.

Committee proposes . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Christ.
"If you try to build a church on anything else but Jesus Christ, it will fail," he said. "If you try to build it on a pastor, it will be only as secure as that pastor and will last only as long as the ministry of that pastor."

Laboring with Jesus Christ to build his church is one of the most exciting things there is, Vines said.

"God performs the miracle of forgiveness," he said. "You and I proclaim the message of forgiveness."

Vines, who will complete his second one-year term as SBC president this summer, said it is time for him to go home and devote himself to being pastor of his church.

Also contributing to this story was Kathy Palen, of the Baptist Press Washington bureau.

Performing arts festival next week

A Christian Performing Arts Festival will take place at First Church, Brandon, March 9-10 featuring classes in drama, clowning, puppetry, music, and directing.

The festival, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will begin Friday, March 9, with registration at 6 p.m., and a creative worship service at 7. It will conclude at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Guest leaders will be Jim Wood-

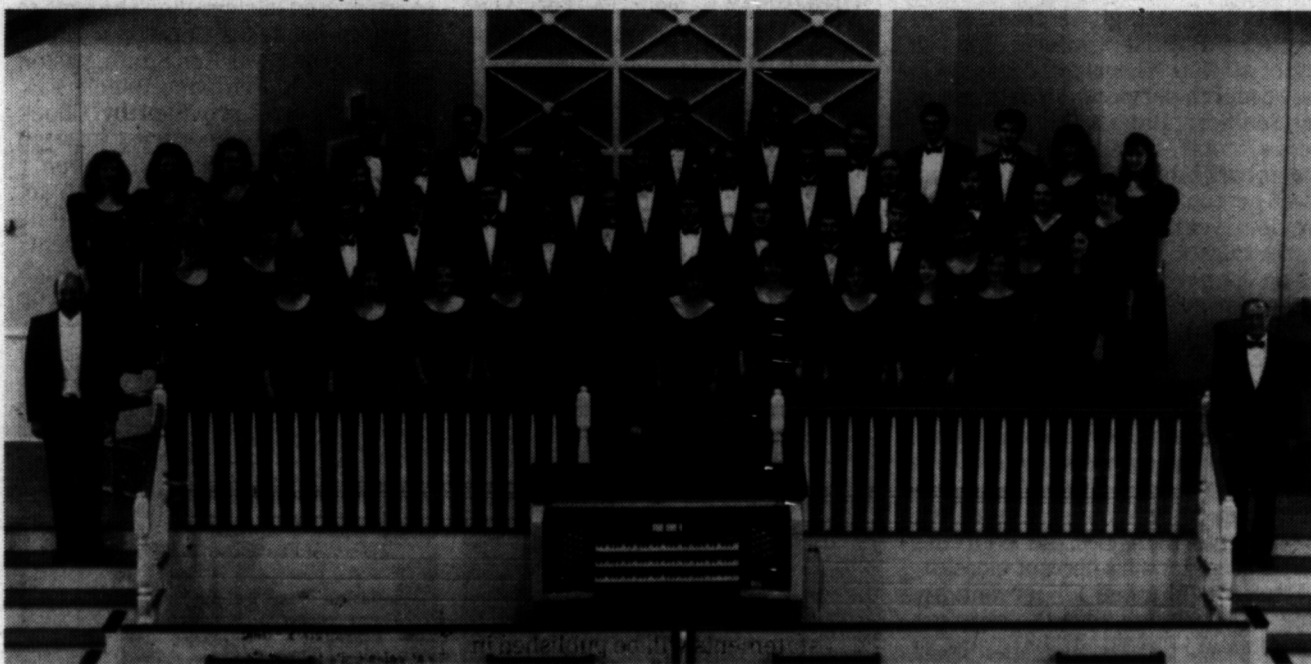
ward and Jeri Graham Edmonds, music professors at Oklahoma Baptist University, and Ernie and Jan Liebig, "Clowns Extraordinaire," from Bullard, Tex.

Classes include resources for drama, advanced and beginning clowning, advanced and beginning puppetry, creative worship, ice breakers, skits for all occasions, directing drama, indoor games, vocal and choral techniques, and promoting

ideas for church activities.

Cost of the event is \$13 which includes two Saturday meals and a book. To register, contact the Discipleship Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. Participants may register to participate in open performance of 5-10 minutes. An adult sponsor is needed for every seven youths.

A Baptist Book Store display will be open at the church.



Mississippi College Concert Choir on tour

The 65-member Mississippi College Concert Choir will be on annual spring tour Feb. 27 through March 4, visiting high schools and community colleges throughout northern Mississippi and Tennessee.

The choir will be singing selections by Stanford, Titchcomb, Dickinson, Bernstein, and Sclater, plus some folk

hymns and spirituals.

Richard Joiner, associate professor and head of the department of music, serves as choir conductor. The assistant conductor is Gay Gandy, a graduate student from Clinton. Billy Trotter, assistant professor of music, serves as organist.

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Overseas baptisms up almost 15 percent

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Baptisms in overseas churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work increased 14.9 percent in 1989, reversing a three percent decline the year before.

Overseas churches baptized 227,437 new believers in 1989 — an average of nearly one baptism every two minutes — up from 197,863 in 1988.

The 1989 total, a record, reflects a ratio of one baptism for every 10.7 church members overseas, compared to one baptism for every 40 members of Southern Baptist churches in the United States, said Jim Slack of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's research and planning office. Slack prepares the annual statistical survey of foreign missions.

In other highlights of the 1989 survey, overseas Baptists' church membership increased 16.4 percent during the year, climbing by 345,818 members to 2.4 million and bringing average church membership to 115.4 per church.

Overseas Baptists added three and a half times as many new members as Southern Baptist churches in the United States, said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "Southern Baptists need to know that the spiritual, human and financial resources they are investing in foreign missions are being multiplied and utilized by God's spirit in a significant way," he said.

The number of Baptist churches overseas grew from 19,199 in 1988 to 21,239 in 1989 — a 10.6 percent increase in net church growth. The actual number of churches started in 1989 was 1,059. The other 981 additions came from more accurate church counts in a number of countries.

Sunday school membership grew from 1.5 million to almost 1.9 million, a gain of 356,535 members, or 23.4 percent.

Discipleship training in 1989 saw an increase of 1,120 participants, to 19,764. Training includes the use of programs such as MasterLife, Bible Way and Survival Kit for the Christian Journey.

But Slack expressed concern about the low number of mission congregations or "preaching points" that matured into churches during the year. Although 1989 saw new preaching points grow from 18,250 to 21,234, only 5.4 percent of the preaching points counted in 1988 became churches in 1989.

That percentage is extremely low compared to work by other mission groups, noted Slack, who said a realistic rate is 20 percent. "This points out that we are good at starting, but poor at maturing. We have started concentrating more on the maturing of new units into churches," he said.

The need for better discipleship training in the early stages of church growth does not mean efforts at starting new preaching points should be neglected, Slack added.

"It is a basic principle of church growth all over the world that as you evangelize farther and farther from the center of your work, the greater your returns will be," he said.

Baptist work moved into 135 cities previously untouched by Baptist outreach — up from 110 new cities in 1988. And the new non-residential missionary program had placed 14 couples overseas by the end of 1989. They are working to evangelize unreached people groups in restricted regions with a total population of more than 120 million people from bases outside those regions.

"These kinds of outreach demonstrate new dimensions in our mission program," Parks said.

Southern Baptists sent 310 new missionaries and more than 10,000 short-

term volunteers abroad last year.

The appointment and reappointment of 310 missionaries fell below the 371 total in 1988, bringing the total Southern Baptist missionary force to 3,780 at the end of 1989 — a net loss of 87 from the previous year after subtracting retirements, resignations, completions of service and deaths. It was the first net loss in the mission force since 1972.

"Our career personnel picture is not as positive as we wish it was. We have had a steady decline in appointments the last five years," Parks said.

"However, the prospects for this year are encouraging. We never know with certainty this early in the year how many the Lord will call out. We do know that the numbers of those in contact with us who have the possibility of appointment are more encouraging than in recent years."

Southern Baptists spent \$5.2 million for overseas hunger and relief projects in 1989 — less than half of 1988's total. The money supported 191 projects in 44 nations.

The drop in money spent for hunger and relief ministry occurred partly because a number of major projects were finished in 1989, said John Cheyne, who coordinates the board's human needs program. Completion of food distribution projects in Ethiopia and Mozambique and a development project in Brazil accounted for a significant part of the decrease, he reported.

Medical missionaries and workers treated almost 1.4 million patients. Missionaries and Baptists produced 51,000 television and radio broadcasts on 483 stations last year. They distributed 6.5 million Christian periodicals, 3.9 million books and 19.5 million tracts.

Overseas church offerings decreased from \$99.8 million in 1988 to \$86.9 million last year, a 12.8 percent drop. The decrease resulted primarily because Baptists in 15 countries did not report their 1989 offerings, Slack explained. In some of these countries, political unrest has caused such turmoil that accurate reporting is impossible.

The number of overseas Baptist pastors increased by 850 to 18,411 in 1989. That's a 4.8 percent jump, but below 1988's growth of 5.2 percent. And existing churches and preaching points need 42,473 pastors — more than twice as many as are available.

A total of 12,439 Baptists studied in theological seminaries, Bible schools and institutes in 1989, compared to 12,222 in 1988. The number studying in seminary extension courses rose by 796 students to 15,796. If church growth is to reach Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism/missions campaign goals, the number of pastors now studying in Baptist seminaries must grow considerably, Slack said.

Brazilian Baptists led in baptisms, with 64,349, accounting for more than a fourth of all baptisms counted in the 1989 report. Baptists in Nigeria ranked second, with 31,460 baptisms, followed by Kenya, with 19,089; Tanzania, 17,121; and Zimbabwe, 8,994. These top five countries accounted for 62 percent of all baptisms.

Brazilian Baptists also counted the highest number of churches, 4,252, followed by Nigeria, with 3,325; South Korea, 1,409; Kenya, 1,380; and the Philippines, 1,282. Of 117 countries reporting, 64 started churches; 53 reported no new churches organized.

On the question of divorce, trustees decided unanimously to continue the board's policy of not appointing people who have been divorced. The action, following a yearlong study, came

in response to a motion on the 1988 evaluation of the board's divorce policy.

The 29 new missionaries, including six with ethnic backgrounds, bring the total foreign missionary force to 3,777.

"The increase in missionaries with ethnic backgrounds is encouraging because it reflects who we are as a denomination," said Jerry DeOliveira, a native of Brazil and director of ethnic church relations for the board. "We're one of the most ethnically diverse conventions in America."

The board will seek missionary personnel to enter Nicaragua and Denmark as soon as possible.

Southern Baptists will have missionaries in all Central American countries when the board assigns a missionary in a liaison role in Nicaragua. The liaison will "minister in partnership with Baptist communities in Nicaragua," said Joe Bruce, area director for Middle America and Canada.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned there since 1983, when the Baptist Convention of

Nicaragua advised furloughing missionaries not to return because their physical safety could not be guaranteed. At that time, political tensions were mounting between the United States and Nicaragua following the 1979 Sandinista revolution there.

Since then, the board has maintained contact with Nicaraguan Baptist leaders and provided funds for disaster and hunger relief and literature ministry, Bruce said. He and other board officials have visited Nicaragua several times, including a disaster survey trip following Hurricane Joan in 1988. Two teams of Southern Baptist volunteers have just returned from Corn Island, Nicaragua, where they rebuilt historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which Joan demolished.

For Denmark, the board needs a missionary to serve as pastor of a new English-language congregation in Copenhagen and as a liaison with the Baptist Union of Denmark. The missionary needs to be capable of teaching in such areas as evangelism, church growth and discipleship. A

Southern Baptist volunteer couple launched the congregation in 1987.

Trustees also unanimously approved changing the qualifications for the missionary associate program, which employs personnel for four-year renewable terms overseas rather than as career missionaries.

The changes, which lower the minimum age for missionary associates to 24 and allow for more flexibility in balancing skills and experience against formal education, are expected to open the way for more Southern Baptists to serve overseas.

One change would allow a spouse of the person with the primary missionary assignment to be employed without education beyond high school if certain requirements are met. That means a pastor's wife who has a high school diploma and demonstrated leadership ability could be employed without further education. Certain other assignments also may allow employment of a missionary associate without a college degree if the person has the required skills and experience.

Nine of 10 areas gain in 1989 SBC statistics

By Charles Willis

numerical gain was 90,726.

Sunday school enrollment climbed in 1989 by 0.3 percent, or 24,642, to 7,936,015 after a decrease of 0.4 percent in 1988.

Church Training, now called Discipleship Training, registered a 1.6 percent increase, or 32,403, for a total of 2,026,141. This was the second year of gains for the program, following an increase of 2.0 percent in 1988 after four years of losses.

Church music enrollment in Southern Baptist churches registered its 24th consecutive increase, with 15,850 more than the previous year, an 0.9 percent gain. Total enrollment was 1,789,868.

Brotherhood enrollment, which declined in 1988 by 8.3 percent, registered an increase of 1.0 percent, or 5,212, for a total of 530,723 participants in 1989.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Increases in financial contributions and mission expenditures topped gains in nine of 10 key reporting areas for Southern Baptists in the 1989 church year.

Baptisms, church membership, the number of churches and enrollments for Sunday school, discipleship training, church music, and Brotherhood all climbed slightly above 1988 totals. The Southern Baptist church year runs from Oct. 1 through the following Sept. 20.

The only decrease registered was in ongoing enrollment for Woman's Missionary Union. A net loss of 1,466 members, or 0.1 percent, brought 1989 enrollment to 1,202,463. An enrollment gain in 1988 was the third consecutive gain for WMU following losses in 1984 and 1985.

According to figures from 37,051 Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter statistical surveys received in the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, total tithes, offerings, and special gifts during the year increased 4.4 percent, or \$180,079,404, over the previous year, making the 1989 total \$4,309,338,984.

The 3.4 percent, or \$23,323,570, increase for mission expenditures lagged slightly behind the percentage increase for the year in total contributions. Mission expenditures for 1989 totaled \$712,921,790.

While the number of Southern Baptist churches increased by 218 to a total of 37,785 during 1989, the 0.6 percent gain is less than that of the previous year. In 1988, 281 churches were added, for a 0.8 percent increase.

Baptisms climbed 1.4 percent, adding 4,787 people above the previous year's total, for 351,107 baptisms in 1989. More than 8,000 churches did not report a baptism for the 1989 church year.

Church membership increased 0.6 percent, or 95,042, to a total of 14,913,538. The percentage gain was identical to that of 1988, making it the second-smallest increase in church membership since 1936. The 1988

"A decade of decision" draws 550 for 3 nights

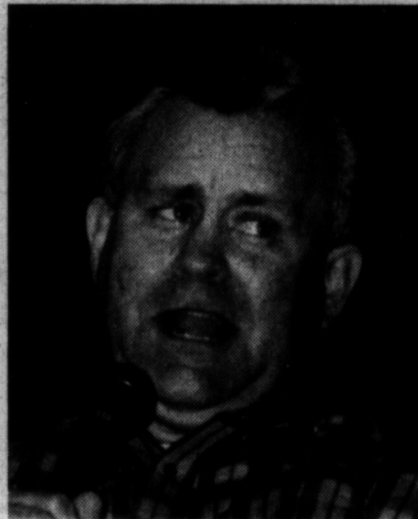
CHRISTIVAL 1990: "A DECADE OF DECISION" was held in the union ballroom on the campus of Mississippi State University, Jan. 15-17. Sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, the event drew an average of 550 students for the three nights.

According to Susan Stinson, BSU Christival coordinator, "Christival was an exciting experience for the campus of Mississippi State. We were able to achieve our goals of reaching out to the campus, breaking through

barriers, and encouraging students to stand up for Jesus Christ."

The speaker was Ken Smith, pastor, First Church, Pompano Beach, Fla. The music was provided by Chuck Bentley, a contemporary Christian music artist from Nashville, Tenn.

During CHRISTIVAL, the fifth annual meeting of this type, 16 public decisions were made and 31 students requested further counseling through comment cards. All were followed up by BSU students.



Smith



Bentley Ley

Peace

By Don Dobson

Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50b RSV) Our Lord, Jesus Christ, was fond of the word "another." Throughout the New Testament, one constantly finds him using this word.

In the Gospel of Mark, he chooses to use the word "another" in tandem with the word "peace." The New International Version says that we are to "be at peace with each other."

That has a nice sound to it. Peace. Roll it around on your tongue for a few moments. Allow the nuance to penetrate your mind. We cannot dwell on the word "peace" and continue to be angry with anyone or any group.

I like what Buckner Fanning says about peace. He tells us that instead of being so concerned about peace in the Middle East, we should be more concerned about "peace in the middle of the living room."

Christ did tell us to be at peace with each other. Perhaps his words should be desperately heard by our own beloved denominations, our churches, and most important, our families.

A popular cooking show host always closes his program with these words, "I bid you peace." May these words, along with Mark 9:50, be our prayer and our hope.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.



Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Baptist Student Union is raising money for missions through an arts and crafts auction to be held Mon., March 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in MBMC's Busey Auditorium. Pictured, from left, are Theresa Bell, radiography student; Bob Wall, director of respiratory care department and auctioneer; Mirando Smith, radiography student; and Mary Katherine White, medical technology student.

Thursday, March 1, 1990



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



A week of wonders

Even in life's routine events, expect the unexpected. Begin each day believing that God can do something in your life that you have not planned or even thought of. . . . Jerry Mixon, in *Along the Way Home*.

Looking back at last week, I see only a sample of the wonders God strewed in abundance before me.

Feb. 18 — The wonder of imagination: W.D. and I drove Mama home after her three-weeks' visit at our house. Along the way we crossed flooded creeks and rivers. Rain that had poured all day was still pouring when we stopped in Montgomery to see Karen and Tom Dennis. Their four-year-old Heather had drawn a picture that I saw mounted on the refrigerator door. It showed Heather, Karen, and Tom inside their house, seated at the kitchen table. Their cats, Blackie and Whitey (born the day Karen and Tom were married), stood looking up at them. Whitey, colored with a white crayon on white paper, was almost invisible. To Heather, this rain would not last forever. Over the house she had arched a rainbow.

Feb. 19 — The wonder of the wind: Early this morning, Mama and I traveled the 10 miles from her house to the Post Office in LaFayette, Ala. She was eagerly awaiting a backlog of mail; but alas, we had forgotten it was a holiday, to celebrate the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln. We stopped at an office to update her car insurance. A note on the door said, "We've moved to a new address temporarily." I looked up, and saw that the roof of this, one of the oldest buildings in town, was partially gone.

Across the way, the faces had been blown out of the clock at the top of the courthouse. Suddenly I recognized the gaps where once big oaks had stood. "Mama, they've had a storm here!" I said. My hometown of LaFayette had been chosen as the setting for the

movie, *Mississippi Burning*, because the town had changed so little in outward appearance since the 1950s. But, within seconds, a tornado had changed what the wear and tear of 40 years had not.

Feb. 20 — The wonder of springtime: Despite the fact that I've been acquainted with 60 springtimes, it never fails to surprise me when, just as I think I'm digging in for the worst part of winter, I see the jonquils pushing through the cold ground and the yellowbells bursting their yellow buds. This afternoon, I picked up sticks and limbs that last week's storm had scattered over Mama's yard. I found a patch of soft green moss under the pines, gold-tinted with sunshine that danced between the branches above me. Beyond the ruins of the old chicken house, a pear tree stood covered in perfumed white blossoms. The redbud tree still retained its flowers, though green leaves were beginning to replace some of them already. I knelt in the grass to pick a handful of tiny lavender flowers — each one not as big as the head of a tack. I don't know their names. When we were children, Betty and I called them daisies. To me, since then, they've always been a herald of spring.

Feb. 21 — The wonder of God's watchcare, Mama's EKG yesterday showed a strong heart. Yet she was nervous this morning, for this was the day she was to have the cataract operation she had dreaded for quite a while. Since she had to be at the hospital in Opelika by 7:30 a.m., she and W.D. and I got out of bed at 5. In my early morning Bible reading, Isaiah 49:2b came to my attention, and I claimed it as God's promise to us this day: "Under the shadow of my hand I will hide thee . . ."

We arrived at the outpatient unit at 7:15. We got word at 20 minutes to 11:

"She's going to surgery now." Forty-five minutes later, we entered her room and found her sitting up in bed, reaching for a Coke. "It was not nearly as bad as I had expected," she said. Of course not. She'd had a promise to sustain her.

Feb. 22 — The wonder of modern medicine: "Marvelous!" said Dr. Wright, when he removed the patch from Mama's eye. "That eye looks great!" A month before, she had been able to read only the biggest letters at the top of the chart. Today she read the fine print next to the bottom line, without her glasses. (Happy birthday next Sunday, Mama!)

Feb. 24 — The wonder of a little one: I sent a Valentine to eight-month-old Emmett, son of Tom and Susan Brown. Susan told me he had fun chewing on it. And his daddy said he squeals while, in his walker, he chases their German shepherd, Baron, round and round the room. Already he has experienced pain, for he's had earache a lot of his life. Yesterday doctors placed tubes in his ears.

Today Holly, age 3, came with her grandmother, Betty, to eat lunch with us. Gravely she watched W.D. place crackers in his soup and chop them up with a spoon. She covered the food on her plate with crackers and began to chop them with her spoon. In a few minutes, he reached for another couple of crackers and broke them into jiblets with his hands. "I can do that!" she proclaimed, and illustrated. I think there's a lesson there somewhere for parents — maybe for other folks, too. I quote Anne Ortlund: "Oh, little one, how precious you are, how important . . . You are potential to be salt, to be light, to speak up, to live out, to lift, to correct, to encourage . . ." Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! (Psalm 107:8).

Letters to the editor

The BAPTIST RECORD needs to call attention to its policies concerning letters to the editor. Many times there are gray areas, and policies may be difficult to interpret. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, though the emphasis is on space rather than words and may go slightly over on occasion. Letters must be signed, and the decision of whether or not to withhold the name will be made by the editor. Letters must not contain attacks on other individuals.

Recently, a letter was run that spoke to legislative situation; and it sought to answer an earlier letter on the same subject. The second letter contained a personal remark that was anonymous, but the fact that the writer's name was used identified the situation for those who were aware of it. The personal remark should have been deleted. The BAPTIST RECORD apologizes. — Editor

Tribute to Miss Ed

Editor:

The Historical Commission at its January meeting expressed sorrow in the passing of Miss Edwina Robinson. The members recognized that in addition to her numerous contributions

to Mississippi Baptists she made a lasting effort in preserving much history over the past 16 years.

Following her retirement as director of WMU activities for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Miss Ed began work almost immediately with the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission indexing the Baptist Record. This selected index is available at the Historical Commission library for researchers in Baptist history.

Later Dr. Robinson undertook the interviewing of many prominent Baptist leaders for the oral history project of the Commission. This contribution will be appreciated by researchers for years to come.

Miss Ed will be missed by all of us, but her work for the Historical Commission is available for all to use now and for years into the future.

Jack W. Gunn
executive secretary
Historical Commission

Guidepost magazine

Editor:

I want to ditto the letter that Mrs. J. H. Kennedy of Jackson wrote concerning the Guidepost ad. When I

read the letter that the gentleman wrote to you concerning the article, then and there I wanted to voice my opinion; but Mrs. Kennedy did it for me.

I, too, read the Guidepost and find it very uplifting. And not once has there been a derogatory remark made in any of the personal stories of others' beliefs or religions, only their personal belief in a God that can help each and everyone of us through the troubles and decisions in this life. In turn, their stories serve to strengthen anyone who will turn their life over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Southern Baptists have gotten so busy nit-picking (swallowing a camel and gagging at a gnat) that they have no time for the "little things" in their lives to sit and talk to others about the "little decisions, little problems" that we, as Christians, sometimes need another Christian to talk to. But, thank God, we do have these stories of others who have gone through similar episodes in their lives and it gives us the strength and courage to know that God can also help us through it because we can see what was accomplished through trusting him. Is that so wrong?

If those people who see only the

dark side of these little magazines would only remove the mote from their eyes and get on to the job of promoting the cause of Christianity, we'd all be much better off.

Then there's all the political animosity among the leaders of our own denomination, and the knowledge of this is world-wide; and it is weakening the beliefs of the "common" members in our faith — and the constant haggling over some college professors who dare to teach a bit different from what the so-called "higher echelon" approves.

When will we ever get back to the basics of Christianity? When will God become so angry with us that he will send his angels to destroy us? We have become a mockery to his teachings.

So until we, as Christians, stop this business of "swallowing camels and gagging at gnats," wake up and be Christ-like, we're in lots of trouble.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Mrs. J. L. Wells
Poplarville

Show of confidence

Editor:

You have badly misread the annual

convention's refusal last year to cut the Baptist Joint Committee budget item. I voted against that cut myself. My vote was by no means a show of support for James Dunn and his staff. It was a show of confidence in the Executive Committee (which I believed had done its homework) and a vote for the more deliberative process now underway. I assure you that I was not the only messenger who cast his ballot with this in mind.

Cecil Taylor
Satsuma, AL

A show of confidence in the Executive Committee was admirable, but it is hard to understand why the committee would come up with almost a \$400,000 figure for one year and only \$50,000 for the next. It is difficult to discern much homework being done with such a wide divergence between the two figures in successive conventions. You mentioned last year's convention. What about the other four? — Editor

Mississippians on program, regional senior adult meet

Mississippians will be among leadership for a regional senior adult conference to take place in at the Cajundome in Lafayette, La., March 19-21.

Comedian Jerry Clower of Liberty will headline the program as keynote speaker. Irene Martin of Forest and a Baptist Record staff member, will be convention pianist. Horace Kerr of Jackson will lead a conference for advanced leaders of senior adults. And J. Clark Hensley of Clinton and Lois Renfro of Jackson will offer the theme interpretation.

The theme is "Here's Hope: Helping Older People Evangelize." Hensley is family ministry contract consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which is helping to sponsor the event. Renfro is senior adult outreach director at Alta Woods Church in Jackson.

Earl Stallings, retired pastor and

author of the senior adult book on evangelism to be used in the Chautauquas next fall, will be among other platform personalities along with Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette.

The convention begins at 6:15 Monday evening and concludes Wednesday at noon. A pre-convention session on Monday afternoon will give orientation to those senior adults who wish to participate in personal witnessing experiences during the convention.

Pre-registration for all sessions may be made by sending \$15 per person to Ray Wells, Family Ministry Department, Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309, or participants may register at the door after 1:15 p.m., March 19.

Admission is by ticket only. A fee of \$5 is charged for individual sessions. For further information, phone Family Ministry at the convention board in Jackson — 968-3800.

Spiritual Emphasis Week will be held at Clarke College, Mar. 20-22

Ex-pro linebacker, John "Bull" Bramlett will be speaker for Spiritual Emphasis Week on the Clarke College campus March 20, 21, and 22, at 11 a.m., in the Lott Fine Arts Building.

Bramlett and his wife, Nancy, are graduates of Memphis State University where he was captain of the baseball team — lettered four years; member of football team; elected Mr. Memphis State, 1963, and honorable mention, All American. He spent seven years in pro-football with Denver Broncos, Miami Dolphins,

New England Patriots, and Atlanta Falcons, and was runner-up to Joe Namath as Rookie of the Year in 1965. Bramlett stated that even with wealth and athletic fame, something was missing from his life until he became a Christian in the late 60s. Since that time, he has been in demand to share his testimony.

Bramlett will also be guest speaker for an associational rally at First Church, Newton, Wed. night, March 21.

Revival dates

East Pleasant Ridge (Prentiss): Mar. 12-16; Kara Blackard, pastor; Wheeler Grove, Corinth, evangelist; Danny Sparks, pastor and music minister, Thrasher, music leader; services, 7 each night; Tuesday, youth night with a pizza blast at 5:45 p.m., and children's night with a hot dog supper at 6 p.m., Thursday; Neil Davis, pastor.

Concord, Pelahatchie (Rankin): March 9-11; Barry C. Corbett, First, Poplarville, evangelist; Susan Horton, Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol, music; 7 p.m., Fri. and Sat.; 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., Sunday; LaVerne Sumner, pastor.

Pleasant Grove (Clarke): Mar. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; Wilber Holifield, Phalti Church, Magee, music; Keith Bogan, pastor.

Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff: March 18-21; services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday; 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed.; Curtis Guess, pastor, Pine Grove (Neshoba) evangelist; Johnny Millwood, Belzoni, music; Gai Millwood, pianist; Davie S. Guess, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 4-11 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU Emphasis)
- Mar. 6 Senior Adult Enrichment Day; Gulfshore Assembly; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (DT)
- Mar. 8 New Staff Orientation and Associational Staff Meeting; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (MBCB & PD)
- Mar. 9-10 Christian Performing Arts Festival; FBC, Brandon; 5 p.m., 9th-3 p.m., 10th (DT)
- Mar. 9-11 Acteens Convention; FBC, Grenada; 7 p.m., 9th-10 a.m., 11th (WMU)

Gum Grove, Brookhaven: Mar. 11-16; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., fellowship lunch served at noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sammy McDonald, pastor, will preach Sunday morning; youth leadership day observed in Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Jim Byrd, student at Copiah Lincoln College, will preach Sunday night; Jimmy Yarbrough, pastor, New Hebron Church, New Hebron, evangelist.

Valley Park (Sharkey-Issaquena): Feb. 28-Mar. 4; 10 a.m., Thurs.-Sat.; 7:30 p.m., Wed.-Sat.; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch; Van Windom, pastor, Highland, Crystal Springs, evangelist.

Sardis Lake, Sardis (Panola): March 18-23; Ronald Rhea, pastor, Sardis Lake, Batesville, evangelist; Archie Blair, Sardis Lake, Batesville, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.

New Salem, Columbus (Lowndes): March 4-9; 7 p.m.; Chuck Raley, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Steve McCurdy, Jacksonville, Fla., music; Bill Franks, pastor.

Fairview, Fulton (Itawamba): Mar. 4-7; Leonard Russell, Central Church, Golden, evangelist; 7 p.m.; Gene O'Brian, pastor.

Just for the Record



Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the speaker at the dedication of Wynndale Church, Terry, new auditorium, Sunday, March 4, at 11 a.m. The dedication of the new 400-seat auditorium will be followed by a church-wide luncheon.

The auditorium is the church's third building program in its 11 year history. In 1980, the church constructed a multi-purpose building, and then in 1986, built a youth education building.

Charles Gentry has been pastor since its founding.



Officers for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's 1990 auxiliary are, from left, Rhudene Gullage, recording secretary; Pam Gross, second vice-president; Dean Archer, president; Dee Thompson, corresponding secretary; and Norma Lewis, treasurer. Not pictured, is Pat Dawson, first vice-president.

Becker Church, Monroe Association, hosted an associational accompanists workshop on Jan. 22. The guest clinician was Darwin Brooks, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Billy W. Bowie is music director for Monroe Association.

FBC, Jackson, to host special ministries seminar, March 4

First Church Jackson, is sponsoring a special ministries seminar for parents and workers, 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4. This seminar will be led by Gene Nabi, consultant, special ministries unit, Bible teaching division of the Sunday School Board. Nabi's experience in the field of mental retardation began with his son, Scott, born in 1961.

Nabi has had articles on mental retardation published and is the author of a special book entitled MINISTERSHIP TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION AND THEIR FAMILIES. This book can be used as a guideline for workers and parents alike and will be the focus of this study.

Schedule of activity will be 2-4 p.m. for worker's training, and 4-6:30 p.m. for parents' seminar. A meal will be served and reservations can be made by calling 949-1900 or mailing to P. O. Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205-0250. Registration fee is \$3.

Providence Church, Tippah County, ordained Grady Camburn as deacon on Feb. 4. Left to right are Eugene Walden, Providence Church, Bolivar County, who brought the message; Grady Camburn; Troy Harrison, pastor; and Don Wilson, Palmer Church, Tippah County.



Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle, held GA recognition services in November, using the theme "We've A Story To Tell To The Nations."

Pictured, front center is Carol Peters; first row (l to r) are Amanda Yager, Ginger Simmons, Jennifer Roland, Cindy Dawson, Crystal Kiddy, and Amanda Roberson; second row, Glenda Simmons, past GA leader, Lisa Hefner, Jennifer Cleveland, Tina Cobb, and Debra Kiddy, past GA leader. Present leaders are Lisa Jordan and Belinda Roberson. Tommy Peters is pastor.

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Names in the news

Jerry Clower, a country comic, will record his 20th album at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., March 5-7. Clower, Liberty, is a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff, honored its pastor, Davie S. Guess and family with a tea on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 11. Guess began his ministry in Holly Bluff on Jan. 19.



Itawamba Association recently honored Kenneth Gillentine for serving the association as treasurer for 17 years. He is shown (left) with Rick Spencer, director of missions (right). A resolution was also adopted dedicating one service of the fall meeting to Gillentine.



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Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams		
Alcorn	1	4
Attala		
Benton		
Bolivar		
Calhoun	8	3
Carroll		
Chickasaw		
Choctaw	2	5
Clarke		
Clay		
Copiah		
Covington	1	0
Franklin	16	4
George		
Greene		
Grenada		
Gulfcoast		
Hinds-Madison	2	2
Holmes		
Humphreys		
Itawamba		
Jackson		
Jasper		
Jeff Davis		
Jones		
Kemper		
Lafayette		
Lamar		
Lauderdale		
Lawrence		
Leake	1	0
Lebanon	9	6
Lee	1	5
Leflore		
Lincoln		
Lowndes	1	4
Marion		
Marshall		
Mississippi		
Monroe		
Montgomery		
Neshoba		
New Choctaw		
Newton		
North Delta		
Northwest	1	2
Noxubee		
Oktibbeha	1	0
Panola	4	2
Pearl River		
Perry		
Pike		
Pontotoc	2	12
Prentiss		
Rankin	5	18
Scott		
Sharkey-Issaquena		
Simpson		
Smith		
Sunflower		
Tallahatchie		
Tippah		
Tishomingo		
Union		
Union Co.		
Walthall		
Warren		
Washington		
Wayne		
Webster	1	5
Winston		
Yalobusha		
Yazoo		

Keyboard Seminar set for March 16-17



Boud

Jones

The Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department is sponsoring a Keyboard Seminar, March 16-17 at First Church, Jackson.

The seminar is for church organists,

pianists, and ministers of music. It will feature Ron Boud and Joyce Jones as guest clinicians.

Boud, who will be clinician for pianists, is professor of church music at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is circulation editor of *Journal of the American Liszt Society* and his published works include 16 books of piano, organ and piano-organ duet music.

Jones, clinician for organists, is organist in residence and professor of organ at Baylor University, Waco, Tex. Her published works include 12 books of organ music. She records for Word Records.

The program begins at noon, March

16, and concludes the next day at noon.

For information concerning registration and the conference format, contact the Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. Registration deadline is March 12.

Wallpapering is easy once you get the hang of it. — (Max Rogers, quoted by Troy Gordon in *Tulsa World*)

Missionary news

William and Cynthia Martin, missionaries to Bolivia, have arrived at language school (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is a native of Yazoo City, and she is the former Cynthia Hammack of Natchez.

Ed and Mary Ann Moses, missionaries to Southern Africa, are in the States for furlough (address: 7216 Mailler St., Orlando, Fla. 32818). He is a native of Orlando, Fla., and she is the former Mary Ann Pugh of Columbus.

Fanny Starns, missionary to Thailand since 1955, retired from active missionary service in December 1989. She was born in Hattiesburg, and grew up in Holden and Baton Rouge, La. She may be addressed at 4155 Essen Lane, Chateaux Dijon, Apt. 110, Baton Rouge, La. 70809.

Harold and Susan Thornton, missionaries to Costa Rica, have completed language study and may be addressed at Apartado 4035-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica. He was born in Tylertown, and she, the former Susan McDaniel, in Fort Riley, Kan. Both consider Kentwood, La., their hometown.

Curtis and Deanie Ferrell, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206). He was born in Montgomery, Ala., and grew up in Argentina, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. She is the former Deanie Bolis of Jackson.

Warren and Ruth Harris, missionary associates to Peru, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). A native of Mississippi, he was born in McComb and considers Summit his hometown. She is the former Ruth Cobble of Tennessee.

Paul and Margie Thibodeaux, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe, may be addressed at Hochmaisgasse 8-10/2, A-1130 Vienna, Austria. Born in New Orleans, La., he considers Oxford his hometown. The former Margie Harris, she was born in Falmouth, Mass., and considers Oxford her hometown.

Wonder what the Ten Commandments would look like if Moses had to run them through a hostile legislature.

Staff changes

Danny Von Kanel has accepted the call to First Church, Purvis, for the position of minister of music/youth, effective March 12.

He is going to Purvis from First Church, Florala, Ala. Prior to his ministry there he served First Church, Vandalia, Ill. Von Kanel is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. Louis

M. Nicolosi is pastor.

Paul F. Hard has begun as pastor of Cambridge Church, Gautier. Hard, a native of Demopolis, Ala., has served churches in Texas and Alabama and goes to Cambridge Church from First Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala. He has a degree from Mobile College and holds a master of divinity and a master of arts in religious education from Southwestern

Donald L. Edwards has begun serving as minister of youth and education of Meadow Church, Amory. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

He goes to Meadow Church from Oak Grove Church, Burleson, Tex., where he served as minister of education and youth.

Sammy J. McDonald III has been called as pastor of Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, effective Jan. 7. His new address is Rt. 5, Box 626, Brookhaven; the telephone number is 833-5956. He goes to Gum Grove Church from the pastorate of Carmel Church, Monticello. McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Lester M. Jeffers resigned Laurel Hill Church, Philadelphia, Feb. 18. He is available for pulpits, interim pastor, associate pastor, minister of adult education, pastor, and revivals. He can be contacted at Rt. 2, Box 149, Walnut Grove, MS 39189 or call (601) 267-5046.

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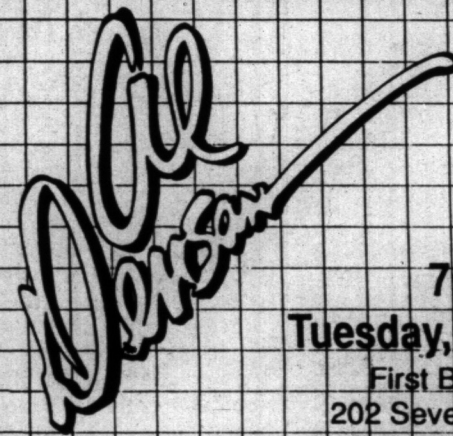
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God prepares an unlikely leader for battle

By N. Allan Moseley
Judges 6:1-9:57

Someone has said something wise concerning God's dealings with men — "God can hit some pretty straight licks with a crooked stick."



Moseley

There is no doubt that at this stage of history, Israel was a crooked stick. Each time Israel strayed from God, they came to be in bondage to another people; but they did not seem to learn obedience. During the undisturbed 40 years following deliverance from the Canaanites (Judges 5:31), Israel again did what was evil in God's sight, and the Lord sent the Midianites to be their oppressors. Perhaps the severity of the oppression is indicated by its duration — seven years (6:1). Israel had been in bondage to Eglon, king of Moab, for 18 years (3:14), and to Jabin, king of Canaan, for 20 years before they cried to the Lord. The suffering was so intense under the Midianites that they could bear it for only seven years. In Judges 6:2-6, there is a graphic

BIBLE BOOK

description of the unrestrained violence of the Midianites.

If at this point in her history Israel seemed an unlikely choice for God to use, so did Gideon. Gideon was quick to remind God that he was from Manasseh — only a half tribe. Further, Gideon's family was the least (in Gideon's estimation) in Manasseh. In addition to that, Gideon was the runt of the litter in this humble family. Gideon would not have been anyone's choice for "Most Likely to Succeed." The story of how God overcame Gideon's inadequacies to accomplish great things is encouraging and instructive.

First, the angel of the Lord hailed Gideon by calling him "O valiant warrior." From the beginning, God began sending this young man a message of affirmation. Gideon might have turned to see to whom the angel was talking, but eventually he got the message that God saw him as a great man. We, too, receive affirmation from God in the form of the titles God uses to describe us. In the New Testament, Christians are called "saints," "the light of the

world," "more than conquerors," "a royal priesthood," and many other such designations. The beginning point of doing great things for God is to see ourselves as God sees us. After the Israelites were freed from Egypt under Moses, they were afraid to attack Canaan because they said, "We became like grasshoppers in our own sight" (Numbers 13:33). Accept God's affirmation, and avoid the grasshopper complex!

God not only affirmed Gideon; he also made him aware of his presence. The angel came to Gideon with the message, "The Lord is with you" (6:12). When Gideon asked the Lord, "How shall I deliver Israel?" (6:15), the Lord answered, "I will be with you" (6:16). That is the same message God gave to Moses (Ex. 3:12) and to Jeremiah (Jer. 1:8) when they thought that the challenge was too great. Christians also have a challenging commission that comes straight from Christ himself; and in order to complete it, we are promised that he will always be with us (Mt. 28:18-20). How could Gideon doubt that God was present and powerful after the miracle of the meat and unleavened bread (6:18-22) and the sign of the fleece (6:36-40)? We, too, have evidences of his

presence and power all around us. When the enemy seems too strong, the flood of adversity too high, or the winds of change too swift, be aware of God's presence! It makes all the difference.

It is important that one does not miss another crucial experience in this period of Gideon's preparation for his mission. In 6:34, it is stated that "The Spirit of the Lord clothed itself with Gideon." What a graphic way to describe how the Holy Spirit works in our lives! We are the outer suit of clothes, and the Spirit of God fills us and animates us. We are the gloves; he is the hand. We are the shoes; he is the feet. Paul referred to this way of life when he wrote, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). Gideon was able to achieve much because he was not the one achieving — God was. In order to fulfill God's plan for us and obey his will, we must appropriate his Spirit's power (c.f. Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18). Though we may think we are pretty crooked sticks, God affirms us, makes us aware of his presence, and animates us. Then we are ready to accomplish great things.

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport.)

Serving by giving begins with giving self

By Wayne Campbell
Mark 10:17-31; 12:41-44

In the early 1930s, a man sat drinking disconsolately at a neighborhood bar. The bartender, trying to be sympathetic, asked, "Did you lose a lot in the crash?"



Campbell

"No," the customer replied. "I lost everything that really mattered during the boom."

Allowing possessions to monopolize one's affections can rob a person of everything that matters, for it focuses one's energies solely on getting rather than giving. Giving is at the heart of the gospel. Our God is a

giving God, and our hearts never beat with his until we allow him to create within us the will to give.

Our lesson focuses first on a young man who possessed considerable wealth, which, in the eyes of the first-century Jew, marked him as

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a man in God's special favor. In addition, he was a respectable citizen, having attempted to observe the commandments in his relationships with others. Yet, sensing a lack within himself, he came to Jesus inquiring about the way of eternal life.

In response, Jesus instructed the inquirer to sell his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor, and then come follow him. Was this a universal requirement for entrance to the kingdom of God? Of course not. Jesus simply wanted the young man to rid himself of one master in order to accept a new one, since it is not possible to serve two. The fact that one may have riches does not exclude one from the kingdom of God, but the peril is that the possessions may possess the possessor.

Although Jesus loved him (vs. 21), the inquirer's response made it impossible for him to know the benefits of that love. And the young

man went away in sorrow. While we often think of wealth as a blessing, we might more accurately label it a tragedy in some cases. This person deprived himself of the happiness and fulfillment that could have been his had he heeded Jesus' words. A few years ago, a song declared, "Happiness is Lubbock, Texas, in the rearview mirror." Actually, happiness is leaving behind anything that interferes with following Jesus Christ.

The happiness Jesus invited the seeker to experience is a two-fold one: that of divesting himself of the obstacle to a right relationship with God, and that of giving to others in the name of the Lord. Serving by giving begins with our giving ourselves to him who gave himself for us. Then we are free to begin to give.

It has often been observed that money makes a good servant, but a terrible master. For the young man in Mark 10, money was a master. For the widow in Mark 12, it was a servant. The difference is not in the amount, but in the use. We can serve money or we can serve with it. The widow demonstrates that one need not have

a lot in order to serve God with what one has.

We may dream of all the generous and helpful things we would do if we were rich. But it is not what we would do under imagined circumstances that reveals our hearts, but what we are doing where we are. God will never hold me accountable for what I could have done with Donald Trump's fortune. But he does hold me responsible for the use of what I have.

The lordship of Jesus Christ is to be evidenced in the use of that which he enables us to acquire. The biblical purpose of possessions is fulfilled in serving people in the name of the Lord.

If we would serve through giving, we need to remember that contributing our possessions must never be substituted for committing ourselves. J. C. Penny observed.

The widow's gift was noteworthy because it demonstrated a remarkable faith and devotion. The gift said much about the giver, as our gifts do also, for she had given all she had. How does our giving look in comparison to hers?

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

Abiding in Christ: the secret to bearing fruit

By Tommy Vinson
John 15:1-17

On one occasion, Charles Spurgeon was observed to stop in the middle of the street, take off his hat, and pray. When one of his deacons asked him why, he replied,



Vinson

"A cloud had come between me and my Savior, and I could not hesitate to have it removed." This sort of close, unbroken communion with the Lord Jesus is what our text presents. In doing so, Jesus uses the illustration of the vine and the branches which would have been extremely familiar to every Jew.

I. The illustration

There are several aspects of this illustration. First, note the vine. Israel throughout the Old Testament is often referred to as the vine of God (Psa. 80:8-11; Isaiah 5:4). Most of these passages expose Israel's failure to live up to the purposes of God in terms of producing fruit of righteousness and judgment. Jesus' referral to himself as "the true vine" (vs. 1) has particular significance here. The word for "true" carries the basic idea of "genuine." Jesus was saying that Israel had proven to be a counterfeit of spiritual reality. His redemptive movement upon the earth was genuine, and would produce real fruit of righteousness. It is interesting to think that Jesus may have spoken these words as he and his disciples passed the temple gate. This gate was decorated with a large bronze vine ornament which represented the national insignia.

The second aspect of this illustration is the branches. (vss. 2,5) This analogy is filled with

UNIFORM

insight as to our relationship with Jesus. Andrew Murray has written that this teaches us that the Christian life is one: of absolute dependence; of deep restfulness; of much fruitfulness; of close communion; and of absolute surrender.

The next component to this illustration is the vine dresser (vs. 1). Jesus presents the Father as the one who is responsible for the vine and the branches. It is his responsibility to do whatever is necessary to insure maximum fruitfulness. He cuts away dead wood that can breed disease and insects. He also cuts away living tissue so that the energy of the vine will go into producing fruit. Sometimes in his ministry of pruning, he must cut away that which is good from our lives that we might experience the best.

II. The indications

There are several indicators by which we can subjectively know that we are abiding in the vine. Ask yourself several questions: 1) Am I experiencing the pruning work of God?; 2) Is there fruit being produced in my life? (vss. 5, 16) This refers both to the fruit of character (Gal. 5:22) and the fruit of converts (Rom. 1:13); 3) Are my prayers being answered? (vs. 7); 4) Am I experiencing the fullness of joy? (vs. 11); 5) Is my life characterized by a loving propensity toward obedience? (v. 14). If you can answer yes to the above questions, then it is safe to assume you are abiding in Jesus. If so, rejoice that our Lord is glad to count you as one of his friends (vs. 15). The text closes by John raising one of Jesus' favorite issues, "Love one another" (vs. 17, cf John 13:34, 35). This

command is not a burden, but a blessing when one is abiding in the vine.

Note the progression of our passage. The secret of the Christian life is fruit bearing. The

secret to fruit bearing is abiding. The secret to abiding is obeying. The secret to obeying is loving.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates, Brandon.

Minnesota supreme court upholds fetal death law

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (EP) — Minnesota's two-year-old fetal death law, among the strictest in the nation, was recently upheld in a split decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The state's fetal death law makes the killer of an unborn child guilty of a crime equal to murdering an adult. The law faced a court test in a case involving a man who shot to death his 22-year-old girlfriend, causing the death of their 27-or 28-day old unborn child.

"We were very happy about the decision," said Jackie Schweitz, co-director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), the state chapter of the National Right to Life Committee. "We think the court has recognized that a baby is a separate life from the mother," and thus has legal rights, including the protection of its life. MCCL was instrumental in drafting the law and sponsoring it through the legislative process.

"Even though it's a separate law from abortion, it was vigorously op-

posed by pro-abortion groups," Schweitz said. "I think they recognize, as we do, that once you give any kind of protection under the law to the unborn, you see (the discrepancy of not gaining all unborn children protection under the law). At this point in time, we have a whole class of unborn babies who are protected and have rights and a whole class who don't. People will see that this is schizophrenic."

The Court stopped just short of defining when life begins, however. The state's fetal death law makes it a crime to murder an unborn child at any time during pregnancy, whereas of the 17 other states with fetal death laws, 15 only apply to unborn children who have reached a state of viability, meaning they could survive outside the womb. Three of the Court's seven justices dissented because the Court failed to define when life begins.

The man's attorney said he may appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hope-fully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mims & Susan Berry &
Family
Jane & Micky Little &
Family
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Mr. & Mrs. George Gatewood
Mr. Billy Blakely
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone
Mr. Albert H. Bonds
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Province
Mrs. C. D. Bonney
Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Hicks
Mr. Louis F. "Skin" Boteler
Mr. & Mrs. W. T. McNair
Mississippi Association of
Coaches
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Mr. & Mrs. William M.
Dalehite
Elizabeth Grantham
Mr. Leslie Harper
Dr. & Mrs. Jack L. Herring
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MS Chapt. Ntl. Assoc.
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Mr. & Mrs. Clifton B. Egger
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Laura Bowie
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Mr. & Mrs. James C. Jackson
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Tiffany & Tom
Mary Jo Basinger
Annie Duke Knight
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC
Columbus
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Ruth Bible Class, FBC
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Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Milton
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Mr. & Mrs. Henry Shelton
Robin & Keri Ray
Mary Jo Basinger
Mr. Ned Sherman
Bethesda Baptist Church
Mr. Greg Smith
Dr. & Mrs. John McFadden
Mrs. Harold (Mary) Smith
Faith SS, North Greenwood
BC
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. O. M. Germany
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Ruth SS, FBC Tupelo
Mr. & Mrs. Emery Wages
Mrs. Juanita Brown
Mrs. Elna Wallace
Hope SS, Centerville BC
Mrs. Mary Waters
Mary Jo Basinger
Mrs. D. W. Younge
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Fain
Jr. & Family

capsules

BWA adds 1.7 million members

McLEAN, Virginia, USA (BWA) — The Baptist World Alliance grew by 6,269 churches and 1,705,613 baptized members in 1989, reports J. Ralph McIntyre, director of the BWA Division of Study and Research.

Totals calculated at the end of December show that the BWA now has 136,154 churches with 35,875,005 members in 144 conventions/unions around the world.

The conventions/unions range in size from the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States, with 14.8 million members in 37,567 churches, to the Australasian Conference of Seventh Day Baptists in New Zealand, with 134 members in five churches.

International youth conference

RUSCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND (EBPS) — Some 200 Baptist youth are expected to take part in the International Youth Conference which will take place July 21-30, 1990, at the theological seminary at Vaux sur Seine, France. Because of limited space, participants from England, France, Norway, Sweden, West Germany and Wales are to bring their own tents.

The price for those who have convertible currencies is 1250 French francs.

For more information, contact the national youth office in the country, or write Asbjorn Bakkevoll, Michelets vei 62, N — 1320 Stabekk (+472 553 590), or Christian Helmlinger, 44 bis rue de Stalingrad, F — 38100 Grenoble.

CON approved for Memorial

State Health Officer Alton B. Cobb, M.D., M.P.H., approved six certificate of need applications totalling over \$15 million Jan. 25.

Section 41-7-191, Mississippi Code of 1972, details health facilities activities which require a CON. The State Legislature in its 1986 session directed that the CON authority become the responsibility of the State Health Officer.

Among applications he approved was Baptist Memorial Hospital, North Mississippi, Inc., Oxford; construction/renovation of physicians offices and obstetrical department; capital expenditures: \$3,050,000.

Brotherhood approves new strategy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A strategy to make Southern Baptist associational Brotherhood programs more responsive to churches and individuals was approved by state Brotherhood directors and associates during their annual leadership conference.

The restructuring calls for an expansion from two complex organizational plans to five simpler organizational plans that associations can select and adapt to their own organizational structures.

Another change is an emphasis on helping churches involve men and

boys in missions and involving men and boys in missions through projects and events sponsored by associational Brotherhood organizations.

The restructuring was approved at the Brotherhood Leadership Conference at the Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 31-Feb. 3.

Shorter campaign exceeds challenge

ROME, Ga. (BP) — The largest capital fund drive in Shorter College's 116-year history has eclipsed its \$8.3 million challenge goal, announced President James D. Jordan.

Gifts and pledges in the three-year "Campaign for Shorter: Foundation for the Future" totaled \$8,301,347. The campaign's \$5.2 million base goal was surpassed in May 1989.

The majority of the funds is for endowment, supporting scholarships, faculty salaries and general college operations. More than \$550,000 is designated toward a new athletic complex on campus, and a portion of the money was used for on-going support.

The Georgia Baptist school set a record last fall, with 882 students. A record spring semester enrollment of 847 was set in January, an increase of 11 percent over the spring 1989 total of 758.

Lolley resigns at Raleigh

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — W. Randall Lolley has resigned the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Greensboro, N.C.

Lolley was president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., near Raleigh for 14 years.

Lolley's resignation at Southeastern was effective March 31, 1988, and he presided over spring commencement exercises at the seminary two months later. He became pastor of the Raleigh church the following July.

Lolley was associate pastor of First Baptist of Greensboro in the late 1950s, immediately after completing two degrees at Southeastern Seminary.

Afterward, he continued his education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was associate pastor of Broadway Baptist Church. He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., from 1962 until he became president of the seminary in 1974.

Off the Record

A Texan sent an eight-pound cucumber to the editor of an Alaskan newspaper. "The big ones are too heavy," he wrote, "but I thought you would like to see the kind of gherkins we grow in Texas."

In a few days, the editor responded with a forty-pound cabbage. "The same is true of our cabbages," he wrote to the Texan, "but I thought you would like to see an Alaskan brussels sprout!"

Salesman: "Sir, this used television set is like new! — It was owned by a little old lady with weak eyes!"



Pictured, front row, left to right, are Kelly Baskind, Ridgeland; Gretchen Nelson, McComb; Chad Phillips, Pascagoula; Carrie Kuykendall, Laurel; Nancy Alexander, Moss Point; and Leslie Thompson, Clinton. Second row, from the left, Russell

Robbins, Clinton; Chris May, Baker, Montana; and Barry Blackburn, Niceville, FL. Back row, from the left, Claude Lee, Guadalajara, Mexico; Jamie Hayes, Crystal Springs; and Jennifer Salers, Jackson.

Madrigal Singers go on tour

The Mississippi College Madrigal Singers will be on tour Feb. 27 through March 4 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, visiting four high schools, six churches and Gulf Coast Community College.

The Singers will be performing typical Renaissance numbers, plus chansons, early anthems, sacred harp and a cappella contemporary Christian selections. They are under the

direction of Lewis E. Oswalt, instructor in music.

The schedule includes Union Church in Picayune for the senior adult luncheon, Feb. 27; two performances at Moss Point High School and at First Church, Ocean Springs, Feb. 28. They will perform at Stone County High School, Wiggins; First Church, Gulfport, for the senior

Coast Community College; and Biloxi High School, March 1.

On March 2 they will be at First Church, Pascagoula, for the senior adults, and later in the day at Pascagoula High School. The troupe will be at the morning worship of University Church in Hattiesburg, March 3, and return to Jackson for an evening performance at Woodland Hills Church.

Youth choirs needed for musical-drama in N.O.

A mass youth choir presentation of a new version of "Celebrate Life" will be performed at New Orleans Seminary April 21.

The 1972 musical-drama has been heard by many over the years. New orchestration has been arranged. A two-part edition of "Celebrate Life" is available for the first time, which gives churches with smaller choirs the opportunity to perform the musical-drama. It is a musical with narration that follows the life of Jesus from the announcement of his birth through his resurrection.

Susan Messer, assistant professor of music education at N.O.B.T.S., said, "This will give youth an opportunity to perform with a live orchestra and be a part of a musical presentation of up to 500 voices! We hope that they'll feel God's presence with them in a program that is outstanding, therefore experience some good spiritual truths for their lives."

A campaign is underway to recruit

church youth choirs to participate in the April 21 program. All participating choirs will be urged to work on "Celebrate Life" during their regular choir rehearsals. There will be Saturday morning and afternoon rehearsals before the evening's 6:30 performance.

The guest conductor will be Beryl Red who composed the music for "Celebrate Life." The new orchestral score and accompaniment recordings are available through the Genevox Music Group. The contemporary accompaniment tracks are compatible with the original SATB version.

The April 21 presentation will be at Leavell Chapel on the New Orleans Seminary campus.

For more information, write New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, c/o Susan Messer, Division of Church Music Ministries, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126-4858, or call 504-282-4455.

Gift launches renovation of Arkansas Baptist camp

SILAM SPRINGS, Ark. (BP) — A gift from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation of Springdale, Ark., has launched a drive to improve facilities at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Silam Springs.

The Jones Foundation's \$1,125,000 gift is half the renovation campaign's \$2.25 million goal, said assembly Director Freddie Pike.

Plans for the 70-year-old camp in

northwestern Arkansas include a new worship center, renovation of 54 dormitories and 42 family units, expansion of the business office and bookstore, new staff housing, a new classroom building and improvement of the retreat center.

The new 1,100-seat worship center is to be named in honor of the Joneses, Pike said.

New books

Smith, Ralph M.; FACING OUR CHALLENGES WITH CONFIDENCE; Nashville; Broadman.

The author is pastor of the Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Tex. He has served as pastor of this church since 1960. He is the past president of the SBC Pastor's Conference.

The book is inspirational in nature. It contains 10 chapters that are designed to inspire the layman and professional staff member in our Christian walk. Pastors would find some excellent sermon and illustrative material in this book.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Baptist Record

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
221 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

March 1, 1990

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205